

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-31 were pending in this application. Claim 1 is amended to include the limitation of claim 2 and is thus allowable per Examiner's statement on page 8 of the Office Action. Claims 3-14 are dependent on claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as is claim 1. Claim 17 is amended to include the limitations of claim 18 and 19 and is thus allowable per Examiner's statement on page 8 of the Office Action. Claims 20-31 are dependent on claim 17 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as is claim 17. Claims 2, 15-16, and 18-19 are canceled.

The Examiner objected to the Abstract of the disclosure citing a number of specific examples, such as the requirement to avoid the use of phrases, "means", "said", "The disclosure concerns", "The disclosure defined by this invention". Applicants are unable to find any reference to such phrases in the Abstract and believe that the Abstract requires no Amendment. It is further noted that the Abstract does not exceed 150 words. If the Examiner still believes that the Abstract does not conform to the required formats, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide more specific information about any such non-conformance so as to enable the Applicants to correct them. Withdrawal of the objections to the Specification is respectfully requested.

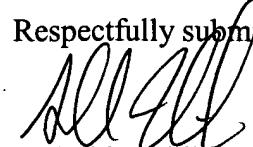
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe claims 1, 3-14, 17, and 20-31, now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appln. No. 09/884,284
Amdt. dated January 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 10, 2004

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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